

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



892 Raa

TRAINING OF THE HEAD AND HAND  
IN 4-H CLUB WORK

A radio talk by Norris Wilkes, 4-H club member, Easton, Connecticut, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, January 4, 1936, and broadcast by a network of 60 associate NBC radio stations.

--ooOoo--

After the many interesting experiences I have enjoyed in connection with 4-H club work, I feel this opportunity to speak during the club radio program is a climax to my club career. I have been in some sort of 4-H club work for six years, was secretary of our Handicraft Club for two years and secretary and vice-president of our Forestry Club for three. At the present time I am a member of the Easton 4-H Keen Cutters, a forestry club in Fairfield County, Connecticut, given recognition last year as the most outstanding club in the county.

Those of you who are familiar with the 4-H club pledge know that the head is considered important enough to be the first H mentioned. It should be, I think, because planning makes all work more effective. One thing our club planned very carefully was our club tours. During the past three years we have toured most of the New England states and have had the opportunity to visit many forestry demonstrations and places of historic interest. We planned the trips, studied maps, worked out routes, raised the money, and had a much more valuable experience because we had made careful preparations.

Aside from my handicraft club work which began with the manufacture of our own work-bench, the members in my clubs have always tried to improve their skill. We have learned how to use our axes, saws and other working tools, and our skill has made it possible for us to win the greatest number of points at the last two county field days. Moreover, we practiced what we had learned by over-hauling our \$25.00 second-hand car, making a fire patrol out of it, in order that our fire fighting team might have some sort of transportation. It was in this car that we have made our club tours. The 4-H club isn't the only place where our club has put head and hand lessons to good use, as most of the boys are prominent in the Grange and other activities.

Because it was necessary for my father to be at work early mornings, a year ago the family moved to town for the winter. I was going to High School at the time and found it pretty hard to come home and study evenings and not spend a little time out in the woods. My interest in 4-H club work, however, did not fade and every Saturday morning I took my axe and lunch and hitch-hiked to Easton to work on my plot. My County Club Agent suggested that along with the other H's I was certainly exercising the heel H.

One thing that my club has learned is that in order to carry on successfully it is very necessary to have good local leadership and an advisory committee. There is no question but that 4-H club success revolves around good leadership. I want to pay tribute right now to our local leader, Erwin P. Edwards, who has allowed us to work for the past four years on an

(over)

eleven acre wood lot, and also permitted us to build a cabin club where we hold our meetings. Our fire fighting crew, which has won many contests for us as well as putting some money into the treasury through fire prevention and control work, was organized and trained under the supervision of the local fire warden, Charles G. Keller, acting for the Connecticut State Forest Fire Fighting Service and I would like to let him know how much the boys appreciate his interest.

4-H Clubs are not working entirely for their own benefit. Our more successful ones are engaged upon some sort of community development projects. You might be interested to know that our club has made a road-side park and planted shrubs, and trees on it after seeding it down, also cleaned up an old cemetery which had been grown over so it was almost forgotten and turned out on all fire alarms for forest fires and chimney fires, saving the local volunteers expense and time. Another part of the work which has been emphasized in Fairfield County by County Club Agent, James R. Case, is vocational preparation.

If time permitted, I could mention many more points but I think you can see what I have been trying to get at; namely, that 4-H club work provides a great background for your future career. I am sure all my listeners will agree with me that training head and hand makes for greater success for rural boys. And in closing I would like to say to everyone, "Here's to you all for bigger and better club work in 1936."

#####

1